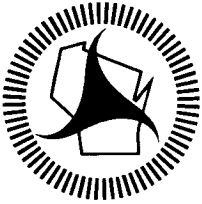


213908



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

www.dot.wisconsin.gov

Jim Doyle  
Governor

Frank J. Busalacchi  
Secretary

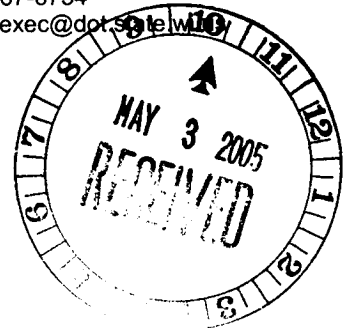
Office of General Counsel  
4802 Sheboygan Ave., Rm. 115B  
P O Box 7910  
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Telephone: 608-266-8810

FAX: 608-267-6734

E-mail: ogc.exec@dot.state.wi.gov

May 2, 2005



Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Office of the Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board, Room 1324  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RE: **STB Docket No. AB-303 (Sub-No. 25X) Wisconsin Central LTD.--Abandonment Exemption--In Langlade, Menominee and Shawano Counties, WI -- Motion for Extension of Time to Reach Agreement on a Notice of Interim Trail Use**

Dear Mr. Williams:

Enclosed for filing are the original and ten (10) copies of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource's Motion for Extension of Time to Reach Agreement on a Notice of Interim Trail Use.

Please date stamp and return the duplicate copy of this transmittal letter in the prepaid, return mail envelope for verification of receipt. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allyn Lepeska".  
Allyn Lepeska  
Attorney

Enclosures

pc: Vicki Schaefer  
Michael Barron, Jr.  
Richard Steffes

ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings

MAY 3 - 2005

Part of  
Public Record

BEFORE THE  
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
**AB-303 (SUB-NO. 25X)**  
WISCONSIN CENTRAL LTD.-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION  
IN LANGLADE, MENOMINEE AND SHAWANO COUNTIES, WISCONSIN  
**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF NOTICE OF INTERIM TRAIL USE**



**BACKGROUND**

On September 19, 2000, the Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) filed with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) a petition under 49 U.S.C. 10502 for exemption from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 10903-5<sup>1</sup> to abandon a line of railroad known as the White Lake Shawano Line, between milepost 280 north of White Lake and milepost 314.3 north of Shawano, in Langlade, Menominee and Shawano Counties, WI, a distance of 34.3 miles. The line traverses U.S. Postal Service Zip Codes 54491, 54150, 54128 and 54166 and includes stations at White Lake (milepost 282.8), Neopit (milepost 296.8) and Thornton (milepost 312.0).

On October 12, 2000, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources signed a Statement of Willingness to Accept Financial Responsibility pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 1152.29. This statement is for the segment of WCL railroad line at White Lake milepost 280.0 to Shawano milepost 314.3, a distance approximately 34.3 miles in Langlade, Menominee and Shawano Counties, Wisconsin.

The Board issued a NITU under 49 CFR 1152.29, which was served on January 5, 2001,

---

<sup>1</sup> WCL's petition states that it seeks exemptions from the provisions of 49 U.S.C 10903-5, thus evidently including the exemption from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10905. WCL has not submitted evidence to establish that the proposed exemptions from sections 10904 and 10905 meet the criteria of 49 U.S.C. 10502. The Board indicated in a footnote that WCL's request as to those two provisions will not be considered.

allowing the WisDNR the full 180 days from date of service or until July 4, 2001, to negotiate a rail banking agreement with WCL.

On February 2, 2001, the Board served a partial stay of the January 5, 2001 decision with respect to the trail use/rail banking authorized in Menominee County. The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin also filed an administrative agency review proceeding of the January 5, 2001 decision in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on March 2, 2001. The Case No. is 01-1100. The parties resolved that matter.

On June 29, 2001, WisDNR and WCL jointly filed a motion to extend the NITU negotiating period for an additional 180 days. The Board issued a NITU under 49 CFR 1152.29, which was served on July 3, 2001 allowing the parties until December 31, 2001 to negotiate a trail use agreement on the portion of the line not in Menominee County.

In a decision served on December 28, 2001, the NITU negotiating period and the deadline to exercise abandonment authority was extended until February 28, 2002. By letter filed February 15, 2002, WCL requested that the Board extend all current deadlines in this proceeding, such as those pertaining to the NITU and the abandonment consummation until May 31, 2002. By a decision served on February 27, 2002, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until May 31, 2002 recognizing that the stay remains in effect as to the portion of the line in Menominee County.

On May 21, 2002, WisDNR and WCL filed a joint petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on June 7, 2002, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until November 27, 2002 excepting the portion in Menominee County (between mileposts 287 and 299.5).

On November 15, 2002, WisDNR filed a petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on November 26, 2002, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until May 26, 2002 excepting the portion in Menominee County (between mileposts 287 and 299.5). By letter filed on June 5, 2002, WCL informed the Board that it had consummated the abandonment of the line between milepost 287 and 299.5. By decision served on December 24, 2002, the Board granted a NITU to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community to negotiate over a portion of the right-of-way approximately from milepost 303 to milepost 306.4 in Shawano County until June 28, 2003.

On May 19, 2003, WisDNR and WCL filed a petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on May 23, 2003, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until November 22, 2003. By decision served on December 24, 2003, the Board granted an NITU to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community to negotiate over a portion of the right-of-way approximately from milepost 303 to milepost 306.4 in Shawano County until December 25, 2003.

On November 10, 2003, WisDNR and WCL filed a petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on December 24, 2003, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until May 20, 2004. The Board also granted a NITU to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community to negotiate over a portion of the right-of-way approximately from milepost 303 to milepost 306.4 in Shawano County until May 20, 2004. WCL reached an agreement with WisDNR to purchase the right-of-way from milepost 280 to milepost 287.

On May 13, 2004, WisDNR and WCL filed a petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on May 19, 2004, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until November 16, 2004. The Board also granted an NITU to the Stockbridge-Munsee

Community to negotiate over a portion of the right-of-way approximately from milepost 303 to milepost 306.4 in Shawano County until November 16, 2004. WCL reached an agreement with WisDNR to purchase the right-of-way from milepost 280 to milepost 287.

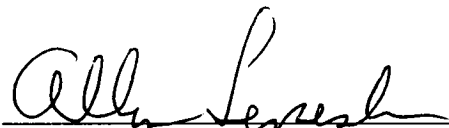
On November 15, 2004, WisDNR filed a petition for extension of the NITU for 180 days. By decision served on November 19, 2004, the Board extended the negotiating period under the NITU until May 15, 2005. The Board also granted a NITU to the Stockbridge-Munsee Community to negotiate over a portion of the right-of-way approximately from milepost 303 to milepost 306.4 in Shawano County until May 15, 2005. WCL reached an agreement with WisDNR to purchase the right-of-way from milepost 280 to milepost 287.

WisDNR made an initial contact with WCL. Negotiations are continuing. WCL is agreeable to an extension of time to continue negotiations under a NITU condition for milepost 299.5 to milepost 314.3.

### **MOTION**

Therefore, WisDNR moves that the period prescribed to negotiate an interim trail use/rail banking agreement be extended for 180 days for a portion of the right-of-way from milepost 299.5 to milepost 314.3

Respectfully submitted,

  
Allyn Lepeska, State Bar No. 1013474  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 115-B  
P. O. Box 7910 Madison, WI 53707-7910  
(608) 266-0253  
Attorney for Wisconsin Department of  
Transportation